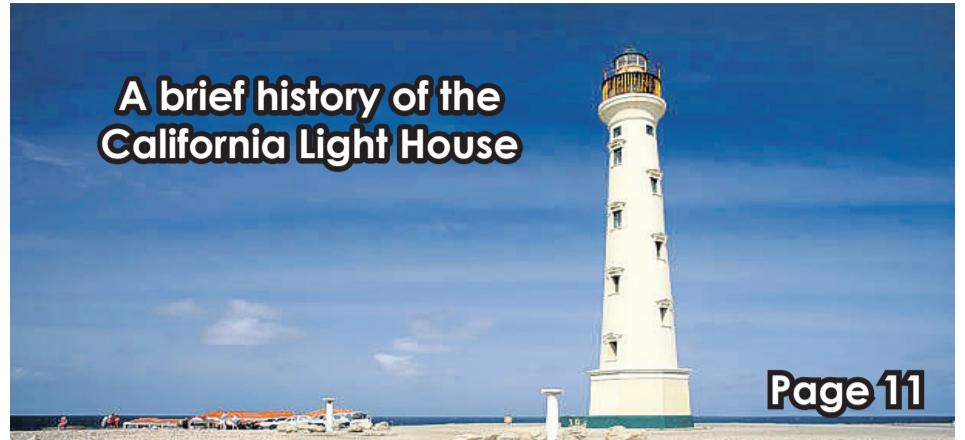




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# ARUBA TODAY

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## Workers strike at all 3 Detroit automakers

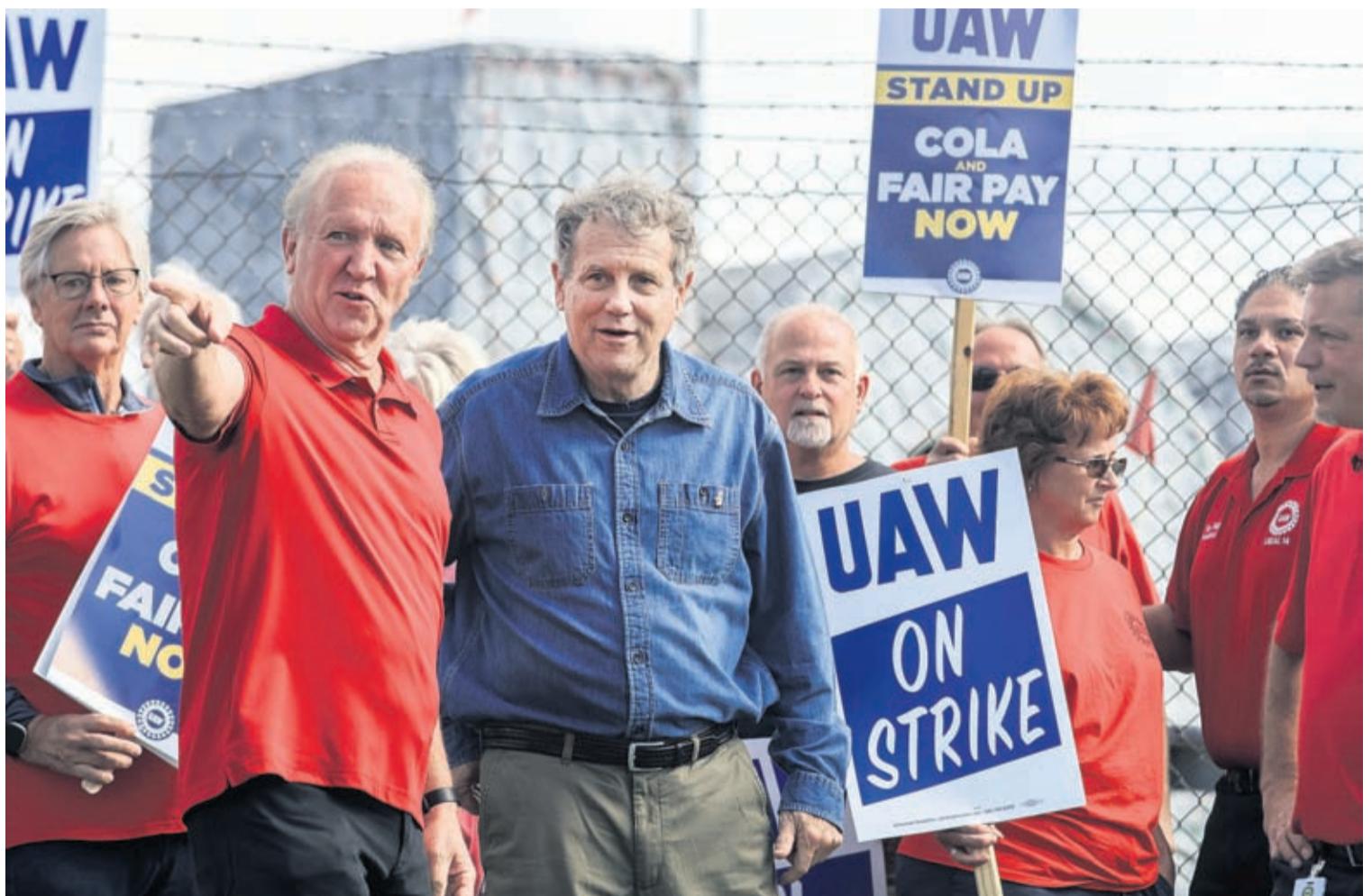
By TOM KRISHER, MIKE HOUSEHOLDER and JOHN SEEWER

Associated Press

**DETROIT (AP)** — Nearly one in 10 of America's unionized auto workers went on strike Friday to pressure Detroit's three automakers into raising wages in an era of big profits and as the industry begins a costly transition from gas guzzlers to electric vehicles.

By striking simultaneously at General Motors, Ford and Chrysler owner Stellantis for the first time in its history, the United Auto Workers union is trying to inflict a new kind of pain on the companies and claw back some pay and benefits workers gave up in recent decades.

The strikes are limited for now to three assembly plants: a GM factory in Wentzville, Missouri, a Ford plant in Wayne, Michigan, near Detroit, and a Jeep plant run by Stellantis in Toledo, Ohio.



Bruce Baumhower, President at UAW Local 12 talks with U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown on the picket line Friday, Sept. 15, 2023, at the Stellantis Toledo Assembly Complex in Toledo, Ohio.

Associated Press

Continued on Page 2

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## Workers strike at all 3 Detroit automakers



**United Auto Workers President Shawn Fain walks with union members striking at Ford's Michigan Assembly Plant in Wayne, Mich., early Friday, Sept. 15, 2023.**

**Associated Press**

### Continued from Front

The workers received support from President Joe Biden, who dispatched aides to Detroit to help resolve the impasse and said the Big 3 automakers should share their "record profits."

Union President Shawn Fain says workers could strike at more plants if the companies don't come up with better offers. The workers are seeking across-the-board wage increases of 36% over four years; the companies have countered by offering increases ranging from 17.5% to 20%. Workers out on the picket lines said they hoped the strikes didn't last long, but added that they were committed to the cause and appreciated Fain's tough tactics.

"We didn't have a problem coming in during COVID, being essential workers and making them big profits," said Chrism Hoisington, who has worked at the Toledo Jeep plant since 2001. "We've sacrificed a lot." In its previous 88-year history, UAW had always nego-

tiated with one automaker at a time, limiting the industrywide impact of any possible work stoppages. Each deal with an automaker was viewed as a template, but not a guarantee, for subsequent contract negotiations.

Now, roughly 13,000 of 146,000 workers at the three companies are on strike, making life complicated for automakers' operations, while limiting the drain on the union's \$825 million strike fund.

If the contract negotiations drag on — and the strikes expand to affect more plants — the costs will grow for workers and the companies. Auto dealers could run short of vehicles, raising prices and pushing customers to buy from foreign automakers with nonunionized workers. It could also put fresh stress on an economy that's been benefiting from easing inflation.

The new negotiating tactic is the brainchild of Fain, the first leader in the union's history to be elected directly by workers. In the past, outgoing leaders picked their replacements by choosing

delegates to a convention. But that system gave birth to a culture of bribery and embezzlement that ended with a federal investigation and prison time for two former UAW presidents.

The combative Fain narrowly won his post last spring with a fiery campaign against that culture, which he called "company-unionism," which he said sold out workers by allowing plant closures and failing to extract more money from the automakers.

"We've been a one-party state for longer than I've been alive," Fain said while campaigning as an adversary to the companies rather than a business partner. David Green, a former local union leader elected to a regional director post this year, said it's time for a new way of bargaining. "The risks of not doing something different outweigh the risks of doing the same thing and expecting a different result," Green said.

During his more than two-decade career at General Motors, Green saw the company close an assembly plant in Lordstown,

Ohio, that employed 3,000 workers. The union agreed to a series of concessions made to help the companies get through the Great Recession. "We've done nothing but slide backward for the last 20 years," Green said, calling Fain's strategy "refreshing."

Carlos Guajardo, who has worked at Ford for the past 35 years and was employed by GM for 11 years before that, said he likes the new strategy.

"It keeps the strike fund lasting longer," said Guajardo, who was on the picket line in Michigan Friday before the sun came up.

The strikes will likely chart the future of the union and of America's homegrown auto industry at a time when U.S. labor is flexing its might and the companies face a historic transition from building internal combustion automobiles to making electric vehicles.

The walkouts also will be an issue in next year's presidential election, testing Biden's claim to being the most union-friendly president in American history.

The limited-strike strategy could have ripple effects, GM CEO Mary Barra said Friday on CNBC.

Many factories are reliant on each other for parts, Barra said. "We've worked to have a very efficient manufacturing network, so yes, even one plant is going to start to have impact."

Even Fain has called the union's demands audacious, but he says the automakers are raking in billions and can afford them. He scoffs at company claims that costly settlements would force them to raise vehicle prices, saying labor accounts for only 4% to 5% of vehicle costs.

In addition to the wage increases, union negotiators are also seeking: restoration of cost-of-living pay raises; an end to varying tiers of wages for factory jobs; a 32-hour week with 40 hours of pay; the restoration of traditional defined-benefit pensions for new hires who now receive only 401(k)-style retirement plans; and pension increases for retirees, among other items.

Starting in 2007, workers gave up cost-of-living raises and defined benefit pensions for new hires. Wage tiers were created as the UAW tried to help the companies avoid financial trouble ahead of and during the Great Recession. Even so, only Ford avoided bankruptcy protection.

Many say it's time to get the concessions back because the companies are making huge profits and CEOs pay packages are soaring.

Looming in the background is the historic transition to electric vehicles. The union wants to make sure it represents workers at joint-venture electric vehicle battery factories the companies are building so that members have jobs making vehicles of the future.

Top-scale assembly plant workers make about \$32 per hour, plus large annual profit-sharing checks. Ford said average annual pay including overtime and bonuses was \$78,000 last year.

The Ford plant that's on strike employs about 3,300 workers, and it makes Bronco SUVs and Ranger midsize pickup trucks. The Toledo Jeep complex has about 5,800 workers and manufactures the Jeep Wrangler SUV and Gladiator pickup. GM's Wentzville plant has about 3,600 workers and makes the GMC Canyon and Chevrolet Colorado midsize pickups, as well as the GMC Savana and Chevrolet Express full-size vans.

The union didn't go after the companies' big cash cows, which are full-size pickup trucks and big SUVs, instead targeting plants that lower profit margin vehicles. But that could change.

Automakers say they're facing unprecedented demands as they develop and build new electric vehicles while at the same time making gas-powered cars, SUVs and trucks to pay the bills. They're worried labor costs will rise so much that they'll have to price their cars above those sold by foreign automakers with U.S. factories. □

## U.S. military orders new interviews on the deadly 2021 Afghan airport attack

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Pentagon's Central Command has ordered interviews of roughly two dozen more service members who were at the Kabul airport when suicide bombers attacked during U.S. forces' chaotic Afghanistan withdrawal, as criticism persists that the deadly assault could have been stopped. The interviews, ordered by Gen. Erik Kurilla, head of U.S. Central Command, were triggered in part by assertions by at least one service member injured in the blast who said he was never interviewed about it and that he might have been able to stop the attackers. The interviews are meant to see if service members who were not included in the original investigation, have new or different information. The decision, according to officials, does not reopen the administration's investigation into the deadly bombing and the withdrawal two years ago. But the additional interviews will likely be seized on by congressional critics, mostly Republican, as proof that



In this image provided by the U.S. Army, then-Lt. Gen. Michael "Erik" Kurilla, commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps, gives a speech at the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) change of command, March 5, 2021, at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Associated Press

the administration bungled the probe into the attack, in addition to mishandling the withdrawal.

Some families of those killed and injured have complained that the Pentagon hasn't been transparent enough about the bombing that killed 170 Afghans and 13 U.S. servicemen and women.

U.S. Central Command's

investigation concluded in November 2021 that given the worsening security situation at the airport's Abbey Gate as Afghans became increasingly desperate to flee, "the attack was not preventable at the tactical level without degrading the mission to maximize the number of evacuees." And, the Pentagon has said that the review of the

suicide attack had turned up neither any advance identification of a possible attacker nor any requests for "an escalation to existing rules of engagement" governing use of force by U.S. troops.

Central Command plans to speak with a number of service members who were severely wounded in the bombing at the Abbey

Gate and had to be quickly evacuated from the country for medical care. They represent the bulk of the planned interviews, but a few others who weren't wounded are also included. Officials also did not rule out that the number of interviews could grow as a result of those initial conversations.

"The purpose of these interviews is to ensure we do our due diligence with the new information that has come to light, that the relevant voices are fully heard and that we take those accounts and examine them seriously and thoroughly so the facts are laid bare," Central Command spokesperson Michael Lawhorn said in a statement. Officials on Friday began informing family members of those killed in the bombing as well as members of Congress about the latest plan. Lt. Gen. Patrick Frank, head of Army Central Command, is overseeing the team conducting the interviews, which is led by Army Brig. Gen. Lance Curtis. Gen. Kurilla has asked Frank to provide an update in 90 days. □

## Prosecutors in DC election case seek order barring Trump's 'inflammatory,' 'intimidating' comments

By ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Federal prosecutors in the case charging Donald Trump with scheming to overturn the 2020 presidential election are seeking an order that would restrict the former president from "inflammatory" and "intimidating" comments about witnesses, lawyers and the judge. Special counsel Jack Smith's team said in a motion filed Friday that such a "narrow, well-defined" order was necessary to preserve the integrity of the case and to avoid prejudicing potential jurors. "Since the grand jury re-

turned an indictment in this case, the defendant has repeatedly and widely disseminated public statements attacking the citizens of the District of Columbia, the Court, prosecutors, and prospective witnesses," prosecutors wrote. "Through his statements, the defendant threatens to undermine the integrity of these proceedings and prejudice the jury pool." Among the statements cited by prosecutors in their motion is a post on his Truth Social platform days after the indictment in which Trump wrote, in all capital letters, "If you go after me, I'm coming after

you!" A Trump spokesman did not immediately return a message seeking comment, but the Justice Department motion says defense lawyers oppose the request.

The issue surfaced last week with the disclosure by the Justice Department that it sought to file a motion related to "daily" public statements by Trump that it said it feared would taint the jury pool.

Also Friday, Smith's team pushed back against the Trump team request to have U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan recuse herself from the case. Defense lawyers had cited prior

comments from Chutkan that they say cast doubt on her ability to be fair,

but prosecutors responded that there was no valid basis for her to step aside. □



Special counsel Jack Smith speaks about an indictment of former President Donald Trump, Aug. 1, 2023, at a Department of Justice office in Washington.

Associated Press

## Offshore wind projects need federal help to get built, six governors tell Biden

By WAYNE PARRY

Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)

— Offshore wind projects need more federal funding and planning assistance to ensure they get built, the Democratic governors of six northeastern states told the Biden administration, warning that a cornerstone of the climate change fight could be in jeopardy.

President Joe Biden can take three steps on tax credits, revenue sharing and permits to help the nascent wind industry deal with challenges like inflation, supply chain and other issues, according to the letter Wednesday from the governors of New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Already, one of the major offshore wind developers active in the northeast, the Danish firm Orsted, has said it considered walking away from projects in the region that have become more costly than anticipated.



Land-based wind turbines in Atlantic City, N.J., turn on July 20, 2023.

Associated Press

Although the company decided to stick with them for now, it has said it won't make a final decision on whether to actually build them until the end of this

year or the beginning of 2024.

"Absent intervention, these near-term projects are increasingly at risk of failing," the governors wrote.

"Without federal action, offshore wind deployment in the U.S. is at serious risk of stalling because states' ratepayers may be unable to absorb these significant

new costs alone."

The governors want the president to have the Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service issue additional guidance on how offshore wind companies can qualify for federal clean energy tax credits. They also want to set up a revenue sharing arrangement in which money generated from offshore leases beyond state waters are shared with those states instead of being returned to the U.S. Treasury.

The third request was for the federal government to make faster permitting decisions for offshore wind projects.

During an earnings conference call last month, Orsted said it considered simply abandoning its Ocean Wind I project in New Jersey, one of two in the state for which it has approval. The company also said it may be forced to write off about \$2.3 billion on U.S. projects that are worth less than they had been. □

## New Mexico governor amends order suspending right to carry firearms to focus on parks, playgrounds

By MORGAN LEE

Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)

— New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Friday narrowed an order that broadly suspended the right to carry firearms in and around Albuquerque to apply only to public parks and playgrounds where children and their families gather. The governor's announcement came days after a federal judge blocked part of the order with criticism mounting over the Democratic governor's action and legal challenges by gun-rights advocates.

Gunfire and violent crime in Albuquerque have continued unabated in the week since Lujan Grisham issued the temporary public health order, she said at a press conference Friday, adding that she will contin-

ue to pursue a "framework that will pass legal muster" to rein in gun violence.

"Last night, we saw violent crime move through the city that resulted in a gun injury, two car hijackings and a kidnapping with suspects not yet in custody," said

Lujan Grisham, appearing in Albuquerque alongside leading Democratic state legislators and her administration's secretary of public safety.

"We have a very serious situation in our communities that requires serious, imme-

diate results."

She said the temporary order now "is amended to be focused now (on) no open or concealed carry in public parks or playgrounds, where we know we've got high risk of kids and families."

U.S. District Judge David Urias said Wednesday that the governor's original order was unconstitutional and granted a temporary restraining order to block the suspension of gun rights until another hearing is held in early October.

Earlier in the week, scores of demonstrators defiantly wore holstered handguns on their hips or carried rifles during a rally by gun-rights advocates.

The second-term governor imposed the emergency public health order Sept. 8 that suspended the right



New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham speaks at the Arcosa Wind Towers, Aug. 9, 2023, in Belen, N.M.

Associated Press

to openly carry or conceal guns in public places based on a statistical threshold for violent crime in Albuquerque and the surrounding area. She cited recent shootings around the state that left children dead, saying something needed to be done.

Republican lawmakers threatened impeachment proceedings and even some influential Democrats and civil rights leaders warned that the move could do more harm than good to overall efforts to ease gun violence.

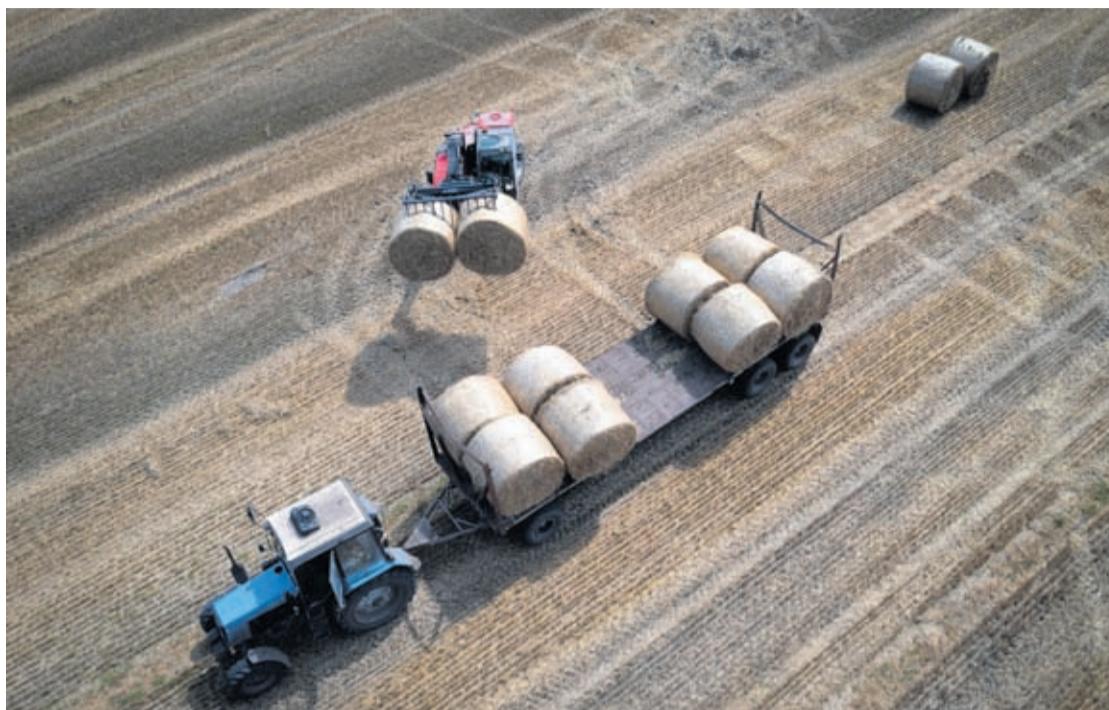
State Attorney General Raúl Torrez announced he could not defend the 30-day prohibition against carrying firearms in and around Albuquerque, widening the divide between the state's top-ranked elected Democrats. □

## EU lets Ukrainian grain ban expire even as countries threaten to pass their own

**LONDON (AP)** — The European Union on Friday decided not to renew a ban on Ukrainian food heading to nearby countries that have complained that an influx of agricultural products from the war-torn nation has hurt their farmers. The move sets up a clash with Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania, which have said that food coming from Ukraine has become stuck within their borders, creating a glut that has driven down prices for local farmers and hurt their livelihoods. The issue threatens European unity on supporting Ukraine against Russia's invasion.

Bulgaria, while part of the original ban, decided this week to allow in Ukrainian imports again to bring down food prices.

"The market distortions" have disappeared, according to the European Commission, the EU's executive arm. Ukraine has agreed to put measures in place starting Saturday to control the export of wheat, corn, rapeseed and sunflower seeds to neighboring



A tractor collects straw on a field in a private farm in Zhurivka, Kyiv region, Ukraine, Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023.

Associated Press

EU countries, the commission said in a statement. It also will introduce proposals for example, an export licensing system within 30 days to avoid grain surges, the EU said.

The leaders of Poland and Hungary have threatened to adopt their own bans on Ukrainian agricultural products if the EU didn't act.

Without an EU extension, "then several countries banding together in international cooperation the Romanians, the Poles, the Hungarians and the Slovaks are going to extend the import ban on a national level," Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said in a radio interview on Friday. Earlier this week, Polish

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said that if the ban wasn't renewed, "we will do it ourselves because we cannot allow for a deregulation of the market." Government officials reiterated that Friday. Poland's governing Law and Justice party is trying to attract farmers' votes in an Oct. 15 parliamentary election.

In a turnaround, Bulgaria lawmakers on Thursday approved resuming imports of Ukrainian food products. Finance Minister Asen Vassilev says the ban has deprived the government of tax revenue and led to higher food prices.

Ukraine praised Bulgaria's decision and had pressed for an end to the ban, saying any further restrictions would have "a clear destabilizing effect on the global food market," Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

Grain and other Ukrainian food had been allowed to pass through the five European countries on the way to parts of the world in need. In July, Russia pulled out of a U.N.-brokered deal allowing Ukraine to ship grain safely through the Black Sea.

Routes through neighboring countries have become the primary way for Ukraine — a major global supplier of wheat, barley, corn and vegetable oil — to export its commodities to parts of the world struggling with hunger. □

## A sex education program causes controversy in Belgium. Schools are burning, the country is worried

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN  
Associated Press

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said on Friday that he will seek the help of government experts on extremism in the wake of a series of school arsons. Officials believe the attacks are connected to a controversial sexual education school program.

De Croo spoke just hours after a sixth school in the French-speaking Wallonia region was torched this week. Signs protesting the so-called Evras program were discovered in some of the schools, according to authorities.

The program is a required four hours of training for students aged 11 to 12 and 15 to 16, intended to help

them develop their relational and sexual lives. The program had been around and available for all age groups for years, but was not compulsory until now.

"In a democracy like ours, we will never allow our schools to be a target," De Croo said.

"We live in a country of tolerance, and tolerance

means we can have a debate, different points of view, but it can never lead to violence, especially in places frequented by our children."

Interior Minister Annelies Verlinden on Friday called for a halt to the attacks.

"We don't touch our schools," Verlinden said during a news conference with De Croo. "It's a red line."

De Croo said he has asked the body in charge of processing intelligence on "terror, extremism and radicalization" to analyze the situation, and Verlinden said she's asked the federal police to provide support to local forces in the affected region.

No one has claimed responsibility for the fires set to



Belgium's Interior Minister Annelies Verlinden, right, speaks with European Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson in Antwerp, Belgium, on June 5, 2023.

Associated Press

the six schools, and no suspect have been arrested. This year, around 100,000 students in the Wallonia-Brussels federation are required to attend the two sessions for a total of four hours of training.

Protests, with a few hundred people taking part, have also been organized in Brussels.

Several Islamic groups have also condemned the program in a joint statement, fearing it will favor "hypersexualization" of children.

Rumors about the nature of Evras have also been spreading on the internet.

De Croo said that sexual education has been provided in Belgium for half a century and warned that the country will not take steps backwards. □

## More than 700 million people don't know when or if they will eat again, U.N. food chief says

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — A global hunger crisis has left more than 700 million people not knowing when or if they will eat again, and demand for food is rising relentlessly while humanitarian funding is drying up, the head of the United Nations food agency said Thursday. World Food Program Executive Director Cindy McCain told the U.N. Security Council that because of the lack of funding, the agency has been forced to cut food rations for millions of people, and "more cuts are on the way."

"We are now living with a series of concurrent and long-term crises that will continue to fuel global humanitarian needs," she said. "This is the humanitarian community's new reality our new normal and we will be dealing with the fallout for years to come." The WFP chief, the widow of the late U.S. senator John McCain, said the agency estimates that nearly 47 million people in



**U.S. Ambassador Cindy McCain, wife of former Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain, smiles as she arrives for the public ceremonial inauguration of Arizona Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs at the state Capitol in Phoenix, Jan. 5, 2023.**

over 50 countries are just one step from famine and a staggering 45 million children under the age of five are now estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition. According to WFP estimates from 79 countries where the Rome-based

agency operates, up to 783 million people one in 10 of the world's population still go to bed hungry every night. More than 345 million people are facing high levels of food insecurity this year, an increase of almost 200 mil-

lion people from early 2021 before the COVID-19 pandemic, the agency said. At the root of the soaring numbers, WFP said, is "a deadly combination of conflict, economic shocks, climate extremes and soaring fertilizer prices."

Associated Press

The economic fallout from the pandemic and the war in Ukraine have pushed food prices out of the reach of millions of people across the world at the same time that high fertilizer prices have caused falling production of maize, rice, soybeans and wheat, the agency said.

"Our collective challenge is to ramp up the ambitious, multi-sectoral partnerships that will enable us to tackle hunger and poverty effectively, and reduce humanitarian needs over the long-term," McCain urged business leaders at the council meeting focusing on humanitarian public-private partnerships. The aim is not just financing, but also finding innovative solutions to help the world's neediest.

Michael Miebach, CEO of Mastercard, told the council that "humanitarian relief has long been the domain of government" and development institutions, and the private sector was seen as a source of financial donations for supplies. □

## Bangladesh is struggling to cope with a record dengue outbreak in which 778 people have died

**DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)** — Bangladesh is struggling with a record outbreak of dengue fever, with experts saying a lack of a coordi-

nated response is causing more deaths from the mosquito-transmitted disease. The World Health Organization recently warned

that diseases such as dengue, Zika, chikungunya and yellow fever caused by mosquito-borne viruses are spreading faster and further because of climate change.

So far this year, 778 people in Bangladesh have died and 157,172 have been infected, according to the government's Directorate General Health Services. The U.N. children's agency says the actual numbers are higher because many cases are not reported.

The previous highest number of deaths was in 2022, when 281 people are reported to have died during the entire year. Dengue is common in tropical areas and causes high fevers, headaches, nau-

sea, vomiting, muscle pain and, in the most serious cases, internal bleeding that leads to death.

Mohammed Niatuzzaman, director of the state-run Mugda Medical College Hospital in Dhaka, said Thursday that Bangladesh is struggling to cope with the outbreak because of a lack of a "sustainable policy" and because many do not know how to treat it. Outside Dhaka and other big cities, medical professionals including nurses need better training in handling dengue cases, he said.

He said authorities should include groups like city corporations and local governments in the fight against dengue, and re-

searchers should study how to prepare for future outbreaks.

Some residents of Dhaka are unhappy with the authorities.

"Our house is in an area which is at risk of dengue. It has a higher quantity of waste and garbage. I'm cautious and use a mosquito net. Despite that, my daughter caught dengue," said Zakir Hassain, a resident of Dhaka's Basabo area.

"What will happen to those who are unaware? If the city corporation or ward commissioner took more care and sprayed insecticides, then we could have avoided the dengue outbreak," he said. □



**A child suffering from dengue receives treatment at Mugda Medical College and Hospital in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023.**

Associated Press

## Today is going to be a good day

(Oranjestad)—Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

### Nature Calls

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whip-tail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website [www.arubanation.org](http://www.arubanation.org)



[alpark.org](http://alpark.org)

### Philip's Animal Garden

To stay with the animals, let's hop to an amazing place. Something different to do, an experience that is to be enjoyed by people of all ages. Welcome to Philip's Animal Garden. We are not talking about a zoo here, this is actually a sanctuary for all types of creatures, from horses to peacocks, kangaroos to turtles, monkeys, goats, and many, many more different species. The place was founded in 2009 and it is the only organization rescuing and rehabilitating exotic animals in Aruba, which has resulted in an amazing collection of these animals. They provide a suitable living environment for all the rescued animals. Up until now the owner, Philip, has built this shelter with his own efforts; building all the cages from scratch, designing all structures and welding them with his own bare hands. His goal is to upgrade the facilities to a world-class animal shelter with veterinary care and round-the-clock staffs. With the input from the Aruban community and visitors they provide the best care for these animals. Please check out their website for more information: [www.philipsanimalgarden.com](http://www.philipsanimalgarden.com).

### The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba



and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. [www.arubalighthouse.com](http://www.arubalighthouse.com) will give you more information.

### Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. It's fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook.

### Take an "off-road" sightseeing tour

A must-do activity on the island is for sure taking an off-road sightseeing tour. If you have a rented car, you can drive through the north-eastern side of Aruba and explore the natural pools, caves, rock forma-



tions and gorgeous view of the Atlantic Ocean. To access most of these sights, like the natural pool (Conchi) and the Guadirikiri and Fontein caves, you must enter through the Arikok National Park and buy a day pass. Then you drive up the rugged road that leads you through the white dunes, caves and along the wind turbines. Other locations, like the Ayo and Casibari Rock formation are situated more in the center of the island, and are free for guests, 24 hours a day.

### Go for a shopping spree in the city center

Need a new bathing suit? Head to the city center of Oranjestad, where there is countless of different

Around the high-rise hotel area near Palm Beach, the Paseo Herencia Mall contain a variety of shopping stores, restaurants, small food stands and even a movie theater! □



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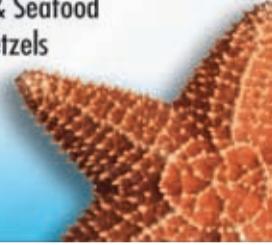
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## Paseo Herencia, an exciting destination for leisure and entertainment



Paseo Herencia, situated in the heart of Palm Beach and within walking distance from the high-rise hotels, beckons with a diverse array of shopping, dining, and entertainment options in an outdoor setting.

### Shopping

Paseo Herencia presents a captivating selection of stores catering to various preferences, encompassing beachwear, apparel, fragrances, footwear, jewelry, keepsakes, and much more. Unwind at Maggy's, indulging in their salon services while exploring a range of beauty products. For a memorable gift crafted from natural ingredients, explore Aruba Aloe's offerings. Iconic brands like Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Aldo, Carmen Steffens, Nike, and Pandora stand among the favorites.

### Dining

Embark on a global culinary journey at Paseo Herencia's diverse array of restaurants, each offering a unique dining experience. From the vibrant flavors of Iguana Cantina's Mexican cuisine to the Spanish elegance of Xixon Spanish Restaurant, the innovative fusion of Pizza and Sushi at Fusion Cuisine, the grilled delights of Skewers Grill, the comfort of The Lazy Turtle, the creativity at Drunk's Denial, and the seafood sensation of Sexy Shrimps Bar, and the familiar warmth of Starbucks,

indulge in an unforgettable gastronomic adventure that spans the world's finest cuisines, all within the charming ambiance of our outdoor center.

### VIP Cinema

Indulge in an unparalleled cinematic experience at Caribbean Cinemas VIP, nestled on Paseo Herencia's second floor. Relax in supremely comfortable reclining seats while enjoying movies on high-quality screens with state-of-the-art projection and 7.1 Dolby surround sound. Don't forget to relish the delectable buttery popcorn.

### Entertainment

Paseo Herencia offers live entertainment from Monday to Friday at 8pm on the center stage, as well as captivating nightly wattershows at 7:30pm, 8:30pm, and 9:30pm. Thrill-seekers can explore the Airsoft experience, located behind The Lazy Turtle. For picture-perfect moments, capture Instagram-worthy shots at the Angel Wings installation between Pandora and Free Spirit, or amidst the Flying mosaic hearts behind King Churros. There's more fun in store with de-



lightful kids' activities, including a Kid's carousel and train ride, available every day from 6 pm to 10 pm.

Parking is complimentary for up to two hours when shopping, dining, or enjoying a movie at Paseo Herencia. Simply present your purchase receipt to the parking cashier.

For more details on specials and events, visit the Paseo Herencia website at [www.paseoherencia.com](http://www.paseoherencia.com). □

## Aruba to me

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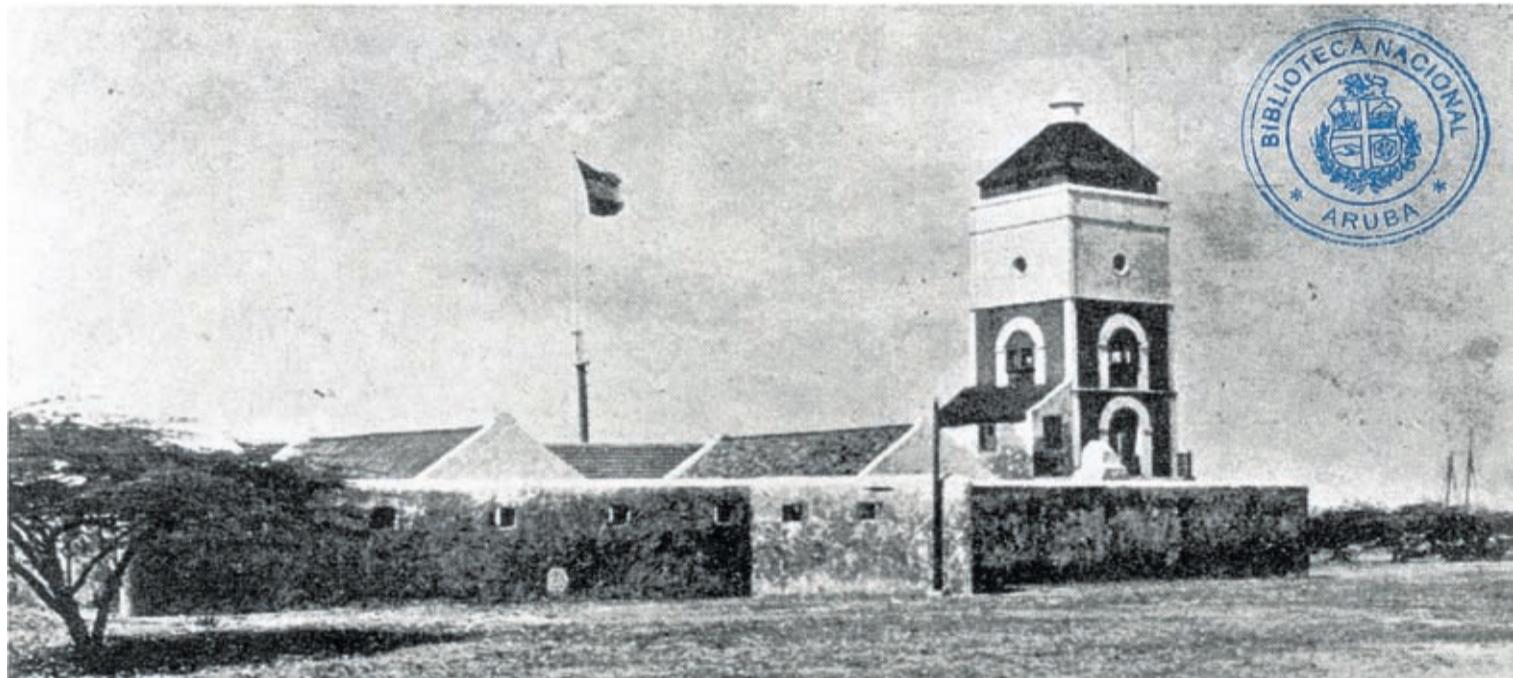
The Brownstone Ribs &amp; Seafood

Coming Soon: Auntie Anne's Pretzels

**Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!**

(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building "Cocolishi", is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called "Willem III Toren". Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Wil-



lem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower. The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of

Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of

unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era). Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different

government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is.

Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depositary of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm. □



Source: The Old Fort of Aruba  
by Jan Hartog.

## A brief history of the California Light House

**(Oranjestad)**—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck. These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum



in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light.

In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting

because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the

light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations. □



## Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the time, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with only one way to generate profit at the time for the subsistence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experienced by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays



after church.

### Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island in the mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the

1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth

on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piternella, as well as migrant authors José Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban soci-



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ety. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness within the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamento, but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

### The 21st century

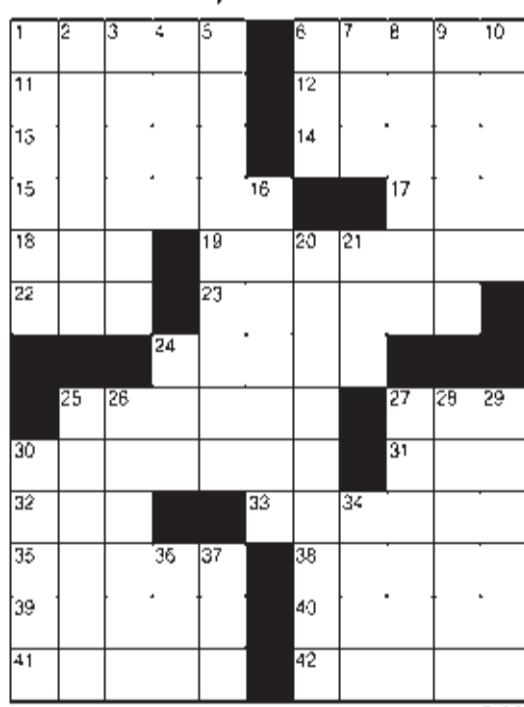
Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

**Source:** Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas

**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Minimum amount
  - 6 Very serious
  - 11 Winfrey of TV
  - 12 Madrid month
  - 13 Beach setting
  - 14 TV role for Guy Williams
  - 15 Platitude
  - 17 Back muscle, for short
  - 18 How— (handy books)
  - 19 Pillbox pokers
  - 22 Low digit
  - 23 Under control
  - 24 Plague
  - 25 Verbose
  - 27 Cal. pages
  - 30 Before
  - 31 Singer Rita
  - 32 French article
  - 33— acid (aqua fortis)
  - 35 Deeply impressed
  - 38 Toil away
  - 39 One of the "Bridgerton" sons
  - 40 Banish
  - 41 Correct, as text

**Yesterday's answer**

9-16

A X Y D L B A A X R  
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-16

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

H Z D M E X T D J Y D X Y M E W D J E I

I P S X B K H X I E H I Q K N D Y D E Y D

H I I C I M . — E D X S W D B J K Y Y D

H C Y I E

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: KEEP YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND AND KEEP REACHING FOR THE STARS. CASEY KASEM

**Free prescription discount cards from GoodRx — What's the catch?**By ALEX ROSENBERG  
of NerdWallet

Americans spend more than \$420 billion per year at pharmacies for prescription drugs, according to a 2022 report from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Prescription discount cards help people save money on prescription drugs by offering savings at participating pharmacies. One popular company, GoodRx, offers discounts of up to 80% on prescription drugs at over 70,000 U.S. pharmacies with its prescription savings program. And according to the company's website, "there's absolutely no cost and no catch."

But earlier this year, GoodRx was penalized by the Federal Trade Commission, or FTC, for disclosing patients' personal health information without their consent. And using GoodRx's discounts isn't always easy or predictable.

Here are four potential catches the federal government, pharmacists, researchers and the company itself say you should know about before using GoodRx.

**1. DEDUCTIBLES**

"Keep in mind you cannot use GoodRx and insurance at the same time," the company's website says. It encourages users to pay for prescriptions as a "cash" payment with a GoodRx coupon. (In this context, paying "cash" means you're paying out of pocket without insurance.) Using GoodRx rather than insurance means your insurance doesn't have to reimburse you or count your spending to-



In this June 15, 2018 file photo, twenty dollar bills are counted in North Andover, Mass.

Associated Press

ward your deductible or out-of-pocket maximum. Whether this matters to you depends on your coverage and what you expect to spend on prescription drugs each year.

"Who cares if it's not going to count toward your deductible if you were never going to spend so much that you're going to hit your deductible anyway," says pharmacist Shannon Rotolo, who recently left the University of Chicago for a new position at the University of Rochester.

But if you know that you'll spend enough to hit an out-of-pocket maximum or Medicare Part D catastrophic coverage, Rotolo recommends having it count toward your deductible. "Get the lower prices from your insurance plan sooner in the year," she says.

**2. PRIVACY VIOLATIONS**

GoodRx's "not-so-good privacy practices" made it the first-ever company penalized for violating the FTC's Health Breach Notification Rule, according to a post by senior attorney

Lesley Fair on the agency's business blog.

"In our complaint, we alleged that GoodRx violated the FTC Act (which prohibits unfair and deceptive practices in the marketplace) by sharing sensitive personal health information for years with advertising companies and platforms contrary to its privacy promises that it would not do so," FTC spokesperson Juliana Grunwald Henderson wrote in an email.

The FTC imposed a \$1.5 million civil penalty on GoodRx. (For context, that's about 0.2% of the company's 2022 annual revenue of \$766.6 million.) The FTC also prohibited GoodRx from sharing any of its users' health data with third parties for advertising, and the company must obtain consent before sharing data for any non-advertising purpose.

When asked whether and to whom GoodRx sells or shares patient data today, a company representative referred in an email to a February 2023 "GoodRx Response to FTC Settlement."

"The settlement with the FTC focuses on an old issue that was proactively addressed almost three years ago, before the FTC inquiry began," the GoodRx statement says. The company disagrees with the FTC's allegations and does not admit wrongdoing. □

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# Psychedelic drug MDMA eases PTSD symptoms in a study that paves the way for possible US approval

By CARLA K. JOHNSON

AP Medical Writer

The psychedelic drug MDMA can reduce symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, researchers reported in a new study published Thursday.

The company sponsoring the research said it plans later this year to seek U.S. approval to market the drug, also known as ecstasy, as a PTSD treatment when combined with talk therapy.

"It's the first innovation in PTSD treatment in more than two decades. And it's significant because I think it will also open up other innovation," said Amy Emerson, CEO of MAPS Public Benefit Corporation, the research sponsor.

Earlier this year, Australia became the first country to allow psychiatrists to prescribe MDMA and psilocybin, the psychoactive ingredient in psychedelic mushrooms. The drugs are gaining wider cultural acceptance in the U.S. in part because of efforts by the nonprofit advocacy group Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies.

For the new study, researchers measured symptoms in 104 people with PTSD who were randomly assigned to get either MDMA or a dummy pill during three sessions, one month apart. Both groups received talk therapy.

Common side effects in the MDMA group were muscle tightness, nausea, decreased appetite and sweating. But only one person in the MDMA group dropped out of the study. After treatment, 86% of the MDMA group improved on a standard PTSD assessment compared to 69% of the placebo group. The assessment measures symptoms such as nightmares, flashbacks and insomnia.

By the study's end, 72% of people in the MDMA group no longer met the diagnostic criteria for PTSD, compared to about 48% of



the placebo group.

"The results that they got are very exciting," said Barbara Rothbaum, who directs the Emory Healthcare Veterans Program in Atlanta. She was not involved in the research, which was published in the journal Nature Medicine.

PTSD also can be treated with other medications or talk therapy.

"They are very effective, but nothing is 100% effective," Rothbaum said. "So

we absolutely need more options for treatment."

Before MDMA could be prescribed in the U.S., the Food and Drug Administration would need to approve it and the Drug Enforcement Administration would need to change its classification. MDMA is currently classified as Schedule 1, on par with heroin and deemed to have "no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse." □

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## Shot put champ Ryan Crouser is on the mend from blood clots, will compete at the Pre Classic

By PAT GRAHAM

AP Sports Writer

Shot put world champion Ryan Crouser measures progress at the moment not so much by distance but by the decreasing size of the two blood clots in his left leg.

In that regard, everything is trending in the right direction for the 30-year-old who was diagnosed with the clots just before his win at world championships last month. His medication has been working and shrinking the clots, along with improving the flow rate around them.

This weekend, Crouser closes the book on a season that's seen him unveil a modernized shot-put style dubbed the "Crouser Slide" — break his own world record, go through his health scare and win a world title in Budapest, Hungary, in spite of the blood clots. Just one more meet, the Prefontaine Classic in Eugene, Oregon, as part of the Diamond League final, and it's straight into vacation mode. Soon, Crouser will be on a boat in Mexico



Ryan Crouser, of the United States, makes an attempt in the men's shot put final during the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary, Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023.

Associated Press

and reeling in marlin with his fly-fishing rod.

He may even squeeze in some fishing before he competes Sunday at Hayward Field.

"I always joke that there's a correlation between how far I'm throwing and how much fishing I'm doing," Crouser said. "So hope-

fully we can bump that distance up with a couple of fishing trips. I did bring some (fishing) flies with me just in case."

There will be plenty of star power around the track for the Diamond League finale. Noah Lyles and Sha'Carri Richardson, the men's and women's

100-meter world champions, will be there. So, too, are 400-meter hurdles world champions Karsten Warholm and Femke Bol, along with 1,500-meter winner Faith Kipyegon and pole-vault champ Mondo Duplantis.

One last go-around before taking a breather and

getting ready for the Paris Olympics next summer.

The Prefontaine Classic is almost like a home meet for Crouser, who grew up in Oregon, went to school at Texas and lives in Arkansas. He's right at home at Hayward, too, breaking the world record for the first time at the 2021 U.S. Olympic trials.

Just don't expect that world record to be broken this weekend after a long season.

But don't bet against the world record falling, either. "Physically, I'm past my peak. But you can always have outlier throws," Crouser said. "Just go out there and just compete, compete my best on the day and throw well and hopefully go out there and surprise myself."

He certainly surprised himself in Budapest. He wasn't even sure he was going to make it to the meet after being diagnosed with blood clots.

He did.

He wasn't sure if he could defend his title, either, after missing training time. □

## WNBA has most-watched regular season in 21 years; highest average attendance since 2018



New York Liberty forward Breanna Stewart (30) shoots against Seattle Storm guards Jewell Loyd (24) and Sami Whitcomb (32) during the second half of a WNBA basketball game, Tuesday, May 30, 2023, in Seattle. She finished the regular season second in the league in scoring, averaging a career-best 23 points a game. She helped New York secure the second best record in the league and Tuesday, Sept. 12, became the first player to repeat as The Associated Press WNBA Player of the Year.

Associated Press

By DOUG FEINBERG  
AP Basketball Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The WNBA once again had strong metrics as the league had its most-watched regular season in 21 years and its highest average attendance since 2018.

Viewership was up 21% over last year across its national television partners and the league's average attendance of 6,615 fans was the WNBA's highest since the 2018 season. An expanded schedule to 40 games this season helped the league gain its highest total attendance in 13 years (1,587,488).

"The significant rise in key business metrics is a testament to the captivating

games being played and the WNBA's expanding appeal," said WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert. "This surge in interest not only showcases the immense talent and athleticism on the court but also highlights the compelling narratives that continue to emerge about the players and the league."

The defending champion Aces had the highest average attendance increase, with a league-high 9,551 fans per game up 66% from last season.

Las Vegas also hosted the highest-attended game this season, drawing a crowd of 17,406 on Sunday against Brittney Griner and the Phoenix Mercury on the

final day of the regular season. That game was played at the bigger T-Mobile Arena as opposed to the Aces regular venue, which seats about 12,000.

"It helps when you win championships," Aces president Nikki Fargas said in a phone interview. "But also what you're seeing is that the community respects the work that these women do every day. It's fun, it's entertaining, it's safe, it's inclusive."

The league also set new highs across its digital platforms, social media engagement and sports betting on the website FanDuel. The number of bets and amount wagered doubled from last year. □

## History suggests 0-2 start is too difficult to overcome in the NFL

By ROB MAADDI  
AP Pro Football Writer

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Two losses in five days already puts the Minnesota Vikings in a big hole that's been difficult for NFL teams to overcome.

Since 1990, only 31 of the 270 clubs (11.5%) that began a season 0-2 advanced to the playoffs. The Cincinnati Bengals recovered from losing their first two defeats last season to finish 12-4 and reached the AFC championship game. The Vikings have to buck the losing trend after another sloppy effort in a 34-28 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles on Thursday night. They had four costly fumbles, including Justin Jefferson losing the ball out of bounds in the end zone. That followed up a mistake-filled 20-17 loss at home to Tampa Bay in Week 1.

"Shot ourselves in the foot with the turnovers," quarterback Kirk Cousins said. "Similar story now the first two weeks in that case. ... Just difficult to win in this league when you lose the turnover battle by one, let alone by the margin we have lost it by, so we have to fix those mistakes and not let it continue."



Minnesota Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins (8) reacts during the second half of an NFL football game against the Philadelphia Eagles on Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

Six other 2022 playoff teams are in danger of starting 0-2, including the AFC's top three teams last year. The Kansas City Chiefs, Bengals and Buffalo Bills each lost their season opener. So did the Los Angeles Chargers, New York Giants and Seattle Seahawks.

Only the 1993 Dallas Cowboys, 2001 New England Patriots and 2007 New York Giants won a Super Bowl after starting 0-2.

"It doesn't feel good. You

want to win," two-time Super Bowl MVP Patrick Mahomes said. "Obviously, I'll be motivated as much as I always am, and that's to go out there and win the week and it's a great opportunity to go up against a great football team, so I'm excited for it."

Mahomes and the Chiefs visit the Jacksonville Jaguars in a playoff rematch, so they've got a tough battle ahead. Seeing other playoff teams lose early is

no comfort to Mahomes.

"I mean, not really. You never know what's going to happen in this league," he said. "People lose every week. It's parity. That's what this NFL is about, and everybody can beat everybody. You have to come in with the mentality that you're going to play your best football. I thought we lapsed in that this last week, and we were playing a good football team and they beat us."

"I don't worry about those other teams around the league because you never know who's going to be at the top at the end of the year whenever you are trying to find your seeding. You just try to go out there and be the best you can be and stack as many wins as possible."

Geno Smith and the Seahawks also have a major challenge trying to avoid 0-2. They visit the Detroit Lions, who upset the Chiefs in the NFL opener on Sept. 7.

"It's good. 0-1 is not the way we wanted to start but no one is hanging their head," Smith said.

"Everyone is looking at ways to improve and really looking forward to going on the road in a tough environment and going out there and trying to get a win."

I think everyone is really focused, has a huge sense of urgency, and we've been practicing like it."

Joe Burrow and the Bengals face the Baltimore Ravens at home on Sunday after a woeful performance in a 24-3 loss at Cleveland. They likely won't panic if they lose because they know what it takes to rebound from 0-2. □

## Jets' Rodgers using doubters as motivation and indicates he'll play again after torn Achilles tendon

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.  
AP Pro Football Writer

**FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)** — New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers says he'll use doubters as motivation in his rehabilitation from Achilles tendon surgery and indicates he'll play football again perhaps even this season.

Rodgers tore his left Achilles tendon on the fourth snap of his debut with his new team on Monday night, a 22-16 overtime victory over Buffalo. The four-time NFL MVP had surgery Wednesday in Los Angeles.

"I think what I'd like to say is, give me the doubts," Rodgers said in an appearance on ESPN's "The Pat McAfee Show" on Friday. "Give me

the timetables. Give me all the things that you think can, should or will happen because all I need is that one little extra percent of inspiration. That's all I need. "So give me your doubts, give me your prognostications and then watch what I do."

Rodgers' surgery was performed by Dr. Neal ElAttrache, an orthopedic surgeon based in Los Angeles who has worked with numerous professional athletes during his career. The 39-year-old quarterback faces a long, arduous recovery and rehabilitation from the injury.

"Definitely some odds stacked against me based on age, but I like it," Rodg-

ers said. "Stack all the odds up against me and see what happens."

He said he has spoken to several people who have had a similar injury and rehabilitation process.

"My entire focus and dedication is on acquiring the most information," Rodgers said. "And then adding to what I've already put together is a pretty damn good rehab plan that's going to, I think, shock some people."

Rodgers wouldn't put any timetables on his return, but he made it clear he intends to play football again. He was asked if he means this season if the Jets make it to the playoffs.

"I'm not going to make any

of those statements," Rodgers said. "I don't feel like that's fair to myself. I think,

as Kevin Garnett said, anything's possible." □



New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers (8) practices before an NFL preseason football game against the New York Giants, Saturday, Aug. 26, 2023, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

# Weekly SPECIALS



<b>Minuut Steak</b>	<b>Asparagus STD</b>	<b>Broccoli Crown</b>	<b>Sweet Potato Jumbo</b>
WAS \$14.85 \$11.42 Per KG	WAS \$8.54 \$6.83 Each	WAS \$8.54 \$7.34 Per KG	WAS \$3.97 \$2.77 Per KG

<b>BBQ/Grill Chicken Sate</b>	<b>Halskarbonade</b>	<b>Lettuce Romaine Hearts</b>	<b>Cucumber</b>	<b>Grapefruit Red 3lbs</b>
WAS \$9.99 \$6.85 Per KG	WAS \$7.71 \$5.71 Per KG	WAS \$5.69 \$4.85 Each	WAS \$3.02 \$2.83 Each	WAS \$6.22 \$5.40 Per BAG

<b>DIARY/FROZEN</b>	<b>HBC/GM</b>	<b>DELI/BAKERY</b>
<b>Almhof Chocomousse Original 140gr</b>	<b>Palmolive Cocoa Butter Lotion 8.5oz</b>	<b>Runder Salami</b>
WAS \$3.42 \$2.57 Each	WAS \$7.42 \$6.68 Each	WAS \$1.99 \$1.65 100 GR
<b>Alpro Plantaardige Yoghurt Bosbes 500gr</b>	<b>Pet Printed Kitchen Towels</b>	<b>Jonge Koos</b>
WAS \$5.97 \$4.74 Each	WAS \$7.88 \$6.28 Each	WAS \$1.08 \$1.03 100 GR

## DRY FOOD

<b>Ambition Baby Corn on the Cob 425gr</b>	<b>EE Traditional Pasta Sauce 24oz</b>	<b>Van Gilse Kristalsuiker 1Kg</b>	<b>Frescampo Pitted Olives 250g</b>	<b>Hawaiian Punch Fruit Juicy Red 128oz</b>
WAS \$2.39 \$2.11 Each	WAS \$3.88 \$3.14 Each	WAS \$2.62 \$2.28 Each	WAS \$2.45 \$1.88 Each	WAS \$5.99 \$4.85 Each

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